

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

SEPTEMBER 4, 2012

**PROCLAMATION OF SUPPORT FOR CARE HARBOR/LA FREE CLINIC 2012**

For the past three years, Los Angeles County has been the site of four of the largest free clinics ever conducted in a metropolitan area. The first was held at the Forum in Inglewood, the second at the Los Angeles Sports Arena and the third was held at the Pyramid in Long Beach. The fourth was held last October once again at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. The clinics provide a range of health and wellness resources that has never been available under one roof at the same time. Together, these four events treated 19,050 patients with 43,390 medical, dental and vision services - free care valued at more than \$8.8 million.

The local organizers and health care professionals who produced these clinics have formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity to continue the work of bringing quality care to the uninsured, underinsured and underserved of Los Angeles County. Care Harbor (originally called CareNow) was founded with a dual goal: to provide comprehensive free care at large community clinics, and to provide continuing care for patients requiring follow-up services by arranging medical homes for patients among the existing health care resources in the community. Further, eligible patients will be enrolled in the Los Angeles County's Healthy Way LA initiative and other coverage programs. Care Harbor clinics will have an enduring impact on the health of residents of the County of Los Angeles and surrounding areas.

The need has never been greater for these services. Dental and optometry coverage for low income adults was cut in 2009 and unemployment figures have continued to rise. Today, Los

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**MOTION**

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

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Angeles County is at the epicenter of the nation's health care challenge. Twenty percent of the population has no health insurance. For millions of fellow Angelenos, these clinics are their only chance of receiving the quality care they need.

This year, Care Harbor is planning the largest and most innovative clinic yet, Care Harbor/LA, which will be held at the Los Angeles Sports Arena on September 27<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, wristbands will be distributed at the Sports Arena to those who plan on accessing the clinic for health services. Estimated patient volume is 1,200 for each of the four clinic days. In addition to free medical, dental and vision care, patients will be provided with immunizations and screenings, and extensive educational presentations and exhibits to promote wellness, self-care and healthy lifestyles – everything from smoking cessation to disaster preparedness. Local clinics and providers will have representatives on site to make appointments for those needing follow-up care.

The event is receiving an unprecedented level of support from the local health care community: medical schools, dental schools, professional societies, health plans, hospitals, clinics, provider organizations, suppliers, and thousands of volunteers are participating. Care Harbor is working closely with Los Angeles County Departments including Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health and the Department of Public and Social Services. In a time of great need for our most vulnerable people, Care Harbor/LA will create lasting change in the lives of thousands.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Proclaim September 24<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 as "Care Harbor/LA Week" in Los Angeles County and encourage residents of the County who are uninsured or underinsured and in need of medical, dental or vision care to take part in this event, offered at no cost to the participants.
2. Encourage County departments to participate in the event to the extent that doing so is consistent with their mission and budgetary constraints, to include allowing employees to work at the event on County time, when consistent with County employee contracts as well as Human Resources rules and regulations, and with the authorization of their immediate supervisor and administration.
3. Allow County Departments to utilize mobile County vehicles at the event as needed for treatment or educational purposes.

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